

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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July 1952

Whole Number 238

RARE DIME NOVELS

by Edward T. LeBlanc

#5

Dawley's Camp & Fireside Library

Until recently, to me, the Dawley publications were simply names of series listed in Dime Novel Catalogues issued by Ralph Cummings; series that I would consider myself lucky to even feast my eyes upon, when that day every collector dreams about arrived. I walked into an old book dealers' shop in Providence, Rhode Island and asked the routine questions expecting the usual routine answers. However, this was my day, the dealer said he had something I'd probably be interested in and drew from a shelf a number of yellow-backed novels, much like the Beadles but somewhat larger. They were all Dawley publications, eight of them. It did not take long to come to a settlement regarding their purchase. They were in brand new and shiny condition, and I couldn't wait to get home to examine them more thoroughly.

I had seen two of the Dawley publications before, Dawley's Ten Penny Novels and Dawley's New War Novels, at Ralph Cummings' on one of my frequent visits to the Headquarters of dime novel collecting. Among the group, however, was one I had never seen, Dawley's Camp and Fireside Library. This number I am making the subject of this article.

Apparently, only eight numbers were published. They were printed on good paper and bore fine colored illustrations, the predominate colors being yellow and red. Its size was 8 1/2



N. Bangs Williams, Pub's Agent, Providence, R. I.

by 5 1/2 inches with 64 pages and sold for 15 cents. A list of titles is appended. The title page bore the date 1865.

The title of No. 6 is "Sue Munday, the Guerrilla Spy," by Dion Haco, Esq. The author's name sounds like pseudonym and probably is. No effort has been made to trace him down as I would not know where to start looking. The story is historically factual, the author seemingly having recounted the life of Jerome Clark, a notorious guerilla who operated in Kentucky during the Civil War. The romantic interest may have been the author's own invention as all historical arrounts of Clark's life fail to

mention any.

Jerome Clark is introduced to the reader while he is a Confederate soldier in the fall of 1861 while on a scouting mission in Kentucky. A Union sentinel is killed during this mission but information regarding the movement of Union troops is brought back to the Confederate lines.

Abruptly, the scene shifts to a cottage along the banks of the Ohio in Brandenburg, Kentucky, where Nettie Woodward, a young girl scarcely in her teens is tending a flower garden. Jerome Clark riding stops to ask for a drink of water. He tarries a short while, evidently smitten with this young and innocent lass. As he leaves he plucks a rose from the garden and with a smile bades her adieu. For a long while she stands looking after him wondering at the strange feeling in her heart.

Shortly thereafter, Clark together with Harry Midkiff, Harry Magruder and others who are as bloodthirsty as himself murder the family and burn the home of a Kentuckian who had joined Rousseau's pro-unionist forces. After this baseless act he again visits Nettie Woodward and furthers the advantage gained at his first visit. Nettie's father, a staunch unionist, is much worried of the visits of this stranger, but Nettie's love for him allays his fears.

While on a foraging detail a Union scout is captured by Clark and a group as equally nefarious. The un-

fortunate soldier is tied hand and foot and carried a short way into the forest.

"What are you going to do with me" asked the prisoner with a show of anxiety.

"You'll soon know," answered Clark as he drew a hempen rope tight.

"Now lads," he exclaimed, "all together, and up he goes." The rope had been thrown over the limb of a tree, and in a few moments the Union soldier was dangling head downward from the branch. The blood rushed downwards into the head of the victim and his face was becoming discolored to a dirty purple hue.

"Bleed him," said Clark.

So saying a mere boy stepped forward and taking his knife he cut loose the cords which bound the victim's arms which fell helplessly downwards, the hands hanging lower than the head. He then severed the fingers and thumbs and left the stumps bleeding; but finding that this did not produce much effect cut off both hands at the wrist.

The flow of blood caused a convulsion of the victim's frame but still consciousness did not return which was what was particularly desired.

The poor unfortunate was let down and after a few moments regained consciousness. He made a move with his arms as if to brush the hair from his eyes whereupon he discovered that his hands had been amputated. A cry of agony burst from his

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lips and a curse, a deep withering curse, was hurled at the heads of those who had so butchered him. This was met with cries of derision and laughter.

"String him up again," cried Clark. And once again he was hoisted free of the ground.

"Kill me," pleaded the soldier, "in mercy kill me and end this misery." Clark merely laughed at the appeal of the captive and stated that he need not be in a hurry to die, as they had not yet done with him. With fiend-like brutality Clark and another Confederate now advanced to the sufferer and taking off his boots cut off singly every one of his toes. Finding that his pleadings for mercy, instead of securing relief from his sufferings only added to their severity and gave pleasure to his tormentors, the victim now ceased his pleadings and after a brief while fainted from excess pain and loss of blood. His torturers attempted to revive him by pricking his body with the point of their knives but all their efforts failed. God had come to the rescue.

While the human fiends were thus engaged, there was a sound of approaching soldiers, whereupon they fired their weapons at the hanging form and left on the run.

A note is made at the end of this recital stating "When the Union troops advanced upon Fort Donelson in February 1862, the mutilated body of a Union scout was found hanging on a tree as described."

Other gruesome accounts of Clark's atrocities are given but it is believed that the above detailed account will suffice.

On one of his visits to Nettie Woodward's home Clark barely escapes from a group of Union soldiers. He confides to Nettie for the first time that he is a Confederate soldier. She, now being in love with him, hides him in the barn until the Union soldiers leave the vicinity.

Clark at about this time disappears from the pages of the book; however, the misdeeds of Magruder, Midkiff and others of their like under the

leadership of a heartless female by the name of Sue Munday are recounted. The Louisville papers carry accounts of her atrocities denouncing her brutality and inhumanity. Until March 12, 1865, she continues her heinous acts, pillaging, burning and murdering in the Kentucky bluegrass country, when at last she is captured by members of the 30th Wisconsin. She, or rather Jerome Clark as indeed Sue Munday really was, Magruder and Midkiff were hiding out in the Woodward barn. The 30th Wisconsin surrounded the barn and after a fierce fight in which three Union soldiers were wounded the guerillas capitulated. There were taken to Louisville where on March 15, 1865 Jerome Clark, alias Sue Munday, was hanged.

Before the execution Clark wrote a note to Nettie Woodward, "My dear.—I have to inform you of the sad fate which awaits your true friend. I am to suffer death this afternoon at four o'clock. **** I send you, from my chains, a message of true love; and as I stand on the brink of the grave, I tell you I do truly, and fondly, and forever love you. I am, ever truly yours,

M. Jerome Clark

The above note plainly showed that in spite of his atrocities he still had one tender spot in his heart which was thus proved not to be all adamant.

Whether all the accounts in the book are true the individual reader will have to decide for himself. The following excerpts from Collins' History of Kentucky seem to bear out the main facts of the book.

"Jerome Clark, real name and dates: Marcellus Jerome Clark, 1845-March 15, 1865, was the son of Hector M. Clark, a prominent citizen and one time Postmaster, of Franklin, Kentucky. The Hon. Beverly L. Clark, member of Congress and Minister to Nicaragua, was an uncle. He was also nephew to the wife of Confederate cavalry leader, John S. Mosby, who married a sister of Beverly L. Clark.

"Jerome Clark's mother died when he was a child, and his father when

he was twelve or fourteen years of age. Jerome was sixteen when in September, 1861, he went to Tennessee and enlisted in the C. S. A. His service included action with Graves' battery at Fort Donelson. Clark was surrendered with the fort here, sent to Camp Morton, Indiana, as prisoner of war but escaped.

"Clark became a guerilla after his foster brother, with whom he had served at Donelson and in prison at Camp Morton, was killed by Union men after surrendering. He first joined Col. Adam R. Johnson's command but soon deserted because his cruelties could not be tolerated. Thereafter he organized his own band and practiced guerilla warfare until Mar. 12, 1865, when he was captured near Webster, Breckinridge County, Kentucky, by a detachment of the 30th Wisconsin. Clark surrendered after a fight, on condition that he would be treated as a prisoner of war. This promise was dishonored. He was captured on Sunday, taken to Louisville, tried and convicted for acts as a guerilla on Tuesday, and hung on Wednesday, March 15, 1865, at 4 p.m. Testimony by Clark that he had served as a Confederate soldier for four years was not permitted.

LIST OF TITLES

1. Incidents of Camp Life.
2. Mercedes, the Outlaw's Child.
3. Norma Danton, or the Children of the Light-House. A Tale of New York City, by Emily Pierpont de Lesdernier
4. Justina, the Avenger.
5. The Mad Bard; or, The Mystery of Melrose Castle.
6. Sue Munday, the Guerrilla Spy
7. Rippard, the Outlaw
8. Bottle Nose Ben, the Indian Hater

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Well Pards, we have a new editor to the Roundup. He is Edward T. Le Blanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass. who has been a member of long standing in the Happy Hours Broth-

erhood. (As Stanley A. Pachon says, he is extremely capable and one of the finest gentleman to whom I have ever mentioned, and is extremely generous with his help in any way he possibly can.) All those who know him, whether personally or otherwise, know that he will carry on with the Roundup just as if I was at the helm myself, and I know that he is just the right person for the right job. Ed is a pretty swell fellow, all around. I don't know what Ed's plans are, but once he gets started, I'm sure he will be able to improve conditions where I couldn't. But he must have the support of all members, to be able to do all the things he has in mind, to make it bigger and better, as the best magazine of its kind in the U. S. His father is a regular dyed in the wool lover of the old novels, as well as Ed, and when you have a pair, they are better than a single any day. No doubt a good many of you are wondering why I am turning the Roundup over to Eddie. It is that I'm almost broke, tired, not feeling too good, and so forth, and besides, if I want to continue to stay above ground I've got to put all my time in buying and selling the old timers—thank the good Lord I'm not married, or I'd been on the rocks long ago, and still, who knows, maybe I'd been in clover. One thing Ed will do, that I've been somewhat lax in, is, he will answer all letters promptly. Send him all money for your Roundup dues and advertising, and keep well paid up, and I know he will do the rest. Don't worry about Ed and his pa not knowing novels, for they know them from A to Z, and what one don't know, the other one does. Maybe a good many of you are wondering if I'm getting out of the game for good. No, I'm not, for I intend to write this column of Newsy News every month, and will do all I can to help the Roundup, so you see, I'm not going to let you down.

Ed wants me also to continue as president, and the rest of the Brotherhood members on, as the V. Pres. and Advisory Board, if they will. The

Miller Print Shop, Lawrence, Kansas our printer, I'm sure will also continue to print the Roundup. I thank them for all past favors in the printing of the Roundup, and other various papers, and I will keep in touch with him from time to time.

I've been the Editor of the Roundup since it started, January 1st, 1931, over 20 years. Ralph P. Smith, Box 985, Lawrence, Mass., turned it over to me July 1st, 1930 and I continued with the Happy Hours Magazine to the end of 1930—and in the meantime, our Vice President, Robert H. Smeltzer, who was the originator of the Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Round-Up, sent the name in to me as a present, so in Jan. 1931 No. 1 first appeared. Should anyone want any or all of the back numbers, they are still in print, price 10¢ each, or 12 for \$1.00, or \$19.00 the set up to date, with the following thrown in, Nos. 1 to 6 of the Novel World, Birthday number and the 2 Indexes.

Ed. will also have an announcement in the next number to make, so be sure to send all dues, subscriptions, advertising moneys to Edward T. Le Blanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Long live the Roundup!!!

L. D. Webster expects to pay a visit to New England in September, and any one up this way that wishes to meet him will get in touch with Ed LeBlanc or myself.

Just heard some pretty sad news, that one of our English members has passed on. Henry Steele who has written many of the articles for the Roundup, passed to the great beyond Feb. 11th, 1952. He will be missed by all that knew him. He also had one of the largest collections of penny bloods in England, next to John Medcraft, Pat Mulhall, and others, although the late Barry Ono had the largest.

"Yours Truly" Williams, of Williams Book Store in Boston, Mass., also died May 29th. He had one of the largest bookstores in New England. May they rest in peace, always.

Danny Bundza, 87 New Bond St., Worcester, Mass., has a lot of boys

books and novels to sell or trade, so write him for lists, etc.

No doubt every one is wondering who Nameless Joe, Ima Tellinya and Hopeful Pete are, well the cats out of the bag now, for it appears that our good old pard Charlie Duprez is the guilty party. Thanks ever so much for all the fine articles you've sent in, Pard, and I hope you continue to keep the members in laughs the same as always.

James M. Martin, 222 C. St., So. San Francisco, Calif., has brought out his first little amateur journal, called "The Historical." Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1952. 4 pages, typewritten, size 5x6½, inch. So you see, he is out to a good start in Amateur.

W. R. Johnson, 428 H. St., S. W., Ardmore, Okla. (an ex-member of the Brotherhood) has a lot of old novels to sell, so if any one is interested, send him a 3¢ stamp for lists.

Also Andy Hanes Jr., 35 Krakow St., Garfield, N. J. He also has old novels for sale.

My mistake fellows, when I wrote that J. P. Guinon was looking for the article on Snaps in the Roundup, and that it had been published in England in various forms—it should have been Handsome Harry, so you see, your former editor was asleep at the switch. I apologize to you, Bro. and Pard Guinon.

Willis Hurd Says: You mentioned my encyclopedic daily book, and suggested that it might be full enough by now to make up a good-sized printed book. I think you are quite right. But I'd like to add to that a bit. I already have typed 15050 pages, at a little over 300 words to the page. Coming right down to the fact of the matter, if my daily stuff were published, it would fill 30 books of 150,000 words each, or 60 books of the size of the average detective novel. How does that strike you. Tho it is not exactly Dime Novel stuff, but composed of daily experiences, incidents, bird study material, reviews of my collections, etc., the daily weather, and a lot of other odds and ends, with mentions of the people I meet,

it might not be too much out of place to mention the fact, as given above, in the Round-up. Some one might be interested. By the way, I am also a collector of automobile license plates. I have a number of foreign plates, and tags from all but 7 of the States.

Alfred A. Hupfeld, #144, sends in the following Tousey information that he has made a complete listing of *Fame & Fortune* Weekly from #1 to 488 giving the complete title of stories and a cross enumeration of the reprinted titles starting with No. 24. Several of these stories appeared under different titles, for instance, 28, 466, 493, 926, 953 are the same story under two different titles. The same is true of 32, 91, 497, 555, 957, 1015. This would leave the field open for additional research as there are probably other similar instances in this Weekly and others and as additional information came in reprints of the book would be necessary or some arrangement made to supply revised sheets to insert with the original volume. I have made the same type of listing of *Happy Days* as far as I could go on the 980 copies I have, so it is not complete, but on this library as the reprints were not issued consecutively as on *Fame & Fortune* I had to carry the listing all the way thru. Your intended listing should note the numbers when price changed, when size was reduced and when Wolff became publisher and later the Westbury name came in. This could be a very interesting book, as I think if it is done at all it should be complete, giving a history of the publishers and as much data as possible on authors and illustrators. I would advise that proofs be read and checked by as many experienced collectors as possible before final publication so as to have a recognized reference work. (Editor—guess I bit off more than I can chew this time, so I've given up the thought, but I understand some library or university is planning on some such history.)

Merriwell Stories, Nos. 1 to 245 inclusive, fine condition for \$200.00. Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

REMOVING STICKERS & LABELS FROM NOVELS WITH EASE

by George T. Flaum

In the April, 1950, issue of The Roundup, the feature article dealt with the "Art of Repairing Novels." Several paragraphs were devoted to the removal of stickers and labels and, while the method outlined in the article does work, a much more practical one has come to my attention.

This past summer, I obtained several novels that were in excellent condition, except for some large stickers which were plastered across the front covers. My heart sank as I looked at them for I noted that the stickers were quite large and firmly attached to the colored covers. I thought of the several hours of steaming that would be necessary and of the ever-present danger of damaging the covers.

Luckily, a friend of the family happened to be present, and, as she has quite a reputation for being a handi-woman, I showed her the novels and told her what I proposed to do. And to this good woman, we owe a debt of gratitude for the simple formula that she gave me works easily and effectively. No longer will stickers and labels on old-time novels be a problem. Now they can be removed with little or no trouble. Here is how the trick is done.

Lay the novel-cover on a waterproof surface such as a piece of oil-cloth, flat china, etc. Then mix one tablespoonful of vinegar to two tablespoonsfuls of water. Wet a small cloth and thoroughly saturate the offending sticker or label. Keep wetting and in a few minutes you will be able to pull it off without any difficulty. Allow the novel-cover to dry and the job is done. Sounds simple, and it is . . . when you know how!

"SIDE NOTES"

An occasional paper about old books, old printing types, penny dreadfuls, Toy Theatres.

J. A. Birkbeck
51 Marchmont Rd., Edinburgh 9
Scotland

OLD TIME BOYS BOOKS

by J. Edward Leithhead Part 7

Harry St. George Rathbone, who dropped his first name in writing many novels for Street & Smith and also used numerous pen-names ("Ned Taylor," for instance, in writing a lot of the early Rough Rider Weekly stories), authored the Ranch and Range Series—Sunset Ranch, Chums of the Prairie, The Young Range Riders—and the Camp and Canoe Series—Canoe and Campfire, Paddling Under Palmettos, Rival Canoe Boys—which appeared in a Street & Smith cloth edition, at \$1.00 each, and later were reprinted by David McKay, at 75 cents per volume, along with a couple of other titles, Gulf Cruisers and Shifting Winds. They were all under his own name. I think Rathbone wrote a lot more cloth-bound books under pseudonyms, but don't know the titles.

Another prolific writer of boys' books, particularly with historical characters and background, was Edwin L. Sabin. He wrote most of an excellent series published by J. B. Lippincott Co. (handsome books with fine illustrations, frontispiece in color, many of them by Charles H. Stephens, often with portrait and map besides), called the American Trail Blazers Series, "The Story Grips and the History Sticks." No finer books for boys (or older readers, for that matter) have ever been printed. Those by Sabin were: Gold Seekers of '49, Buffalo Bill and the Overland Trail, On the Plains With Custer, With Carson and Fremont, With Sam Houston in Texas, Lost With Lieutenant Pike, General Crook and the Fighting Apaches, Opening the West With Lewis and Clark, With George Washington Into the Wilderness, In the Ranks of Old Hickory, Into Mexico with General Scott. Others in this series not by Sabin were Captain John Smith and Daniel Boone, Backwoodsman, both by C. H. Forbes-Lindsay, and David Crockett, Scout, by Charles Fletcher Allen. Another book by Sabin, "Old" Jim Bridger on the Moccasin Trail, published by Thomas Y. Crowell Co., would have been a fine volume to include in the American Trail Blazers Series.

Crowell also published the Great West Series by Sabin—The Great Pike's Peak Rush, On the Overland Stage, Opening the Iron Trail (in the second volume, Wild Bill Hickok appears as stage driver, his occupation at one time; in the third volume, Major Frank North and his Pawnee Indian scouts help the railroad builders); the Range and Trail Series, cowboy stories—Bar B Boys, Range and Trail, Old Four-toes, Treasure Mountain, Scarface Ranch, and Wild Men of the Wild West, a book of short biographies of Western characters like Hugh Glass, the mountain man famed for living through a hand-to-hand encounter with a grizzly, a knife his only weapon.

Boys' Book of Indian Warriors and Heroic Indian Women (told from the viewpoint of the red man), Boys' Book of Frontier Fighters and Boys' Book of Border Battles were three uniform volumes of short Indian, pioneer, scout and soldier-and-Indian historical tales by Sabin, published by George W. Jacobs & Co., very attractive books and well illustrated. Also, for the same publisher, Sabin wrote some adult historical novels, Desert Dust (partly about the railroad pushing west), White Indian (Bridger and Carson appear in this story), The Rose of Santa Fe, Rio Bravo, The City of the Sun. A history of the first transcontinental railroad, Building the Pacific Railway, was published by Lippincott.

A fine series for boys of all ages was the Famous Leaders Series by Charles H. L. Johnston, published by L. C. Page & Co. There was Famous Cavalry Leaders, Famous Privateersmen and Adventurers of the Sea, Famous Indian Chiefs, Famous Scouts (from Daniel Boone and General Israel Putnam to Wild Bill Hickok, Dr. Frank Powell (White Beaver) and Buffalo Bill Cody), and Famous Frontiersmen and Heroes of the Border (from Daniel Morgan and Lewis Wetzel to Big Foot Wallace and Captain Jack Hays, the Texas Ranger).

(to be continued)

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